THE PACIFIC

74th Year NOVEMBER, 1924 No. 11.

INSPIRING SESSIONS AT ASILOMAR CHARACTERIZE SIXTY-EIGHTH CONFERENCE

Not unlike the life in that Acadian village described by Longfellow were the days at Asilomar, California, when an earnest group gathered for the Sixty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Northern California Congregational Conference—for "neither locks had they to their doors, nor bars to their windows," thus they "dwelt together in love—dwelt in the love of God and of man" in that Retreat by the Sea. Beautiful, indeed, was the fellowship of that group as they worshiped and studied together.

The Conference which covered the period from October 8 to 14 and marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of Congregational work in Northern California, opened with a memorial service for the late Rev. H. M. Tenney, who was for 14 years pastor of First, San Jose, and later Secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions, conducted by Rev. Fred W. Morrison of San Jose. "Snap Shots" of District Associations were given by the various Association Moderators.

A representative group of delegates enrolled in the Foreign Mission Study Class, conducted by Rev. Obed S. Johnson and Rev. J. C. Holmes, late missionaries to China and Japan, using as their text "China's Challenge to Christianity." Rev. H. F. Swartz, president of the Pacific School of Religion, led the Home Mission Study Class, based upon the message of the study book, "Of One Blood."

"California Revisited" and "From Coast to Coast" were topics of addresses given respectively by Rev. William Rader, pastor of North, Berkeley, and Rev. Robert E. Brown, newly arrived pastor of First, Oakland.

Rev. Oswald W. S. McCall, pastor of First, Berkeley, preached the Conference Sermon on the theme "The Old and New in Religion," emphasizing the need for a broad and charitable attitude toward the old and the modern ideals. A plea for better church architecture was embodied in the address by Rev. Carl Stackman, Denver, Colorado, representing the Church Building Society.

Of distinct historical worth were two carefully executed papers given by Rev. Willard B. Thorp, pastor at Palo Alto, and Rev. H. H. Gill, pastor at Sacramento. Rev. R. W. Gammon of Chicago, Western Editor of The Congregationalist, came as a leader in the Education Society, and as part of the Commission on Missions, representing all the National Congregational Societies, and bringing a message concerning their work and outlook to various State Conferences.

One session was devoted to Young People's Problems and was evolved out of a symposium by the young people themselves. The business session was well directed by Superintendent William J. Minchin and Moderator J. T. Richards, and resulted in a universal sense of satisfaction. Three one-act plays were presented by the Boulevard Players for the entertainment of the Conference.

Sunday morning Rev. F. W. Morrison of San Jose led in Morning Worship, and preached a vivid and picturesque sermon on "The Changing of the Changeless." After the vesper communion service held late in the afternoon Rev. R. B. Dodge conducted an informal song and fellowship service around the fireplace.

"Glimpses from the Field" by missionaries made the Home and Foreign Missionary Program most interesting and instructive. A worth while discussion was led by Rev. K. S. Beam and Dr. L. L. Wirt on the question, "Are We as a Nation Really Standing for Peace?" On the last day of the Conference a discussion on "How Far is Prohibition Being Enforced in Our California Communities" was opened by Rev. T. P. Giffen.

L. P.

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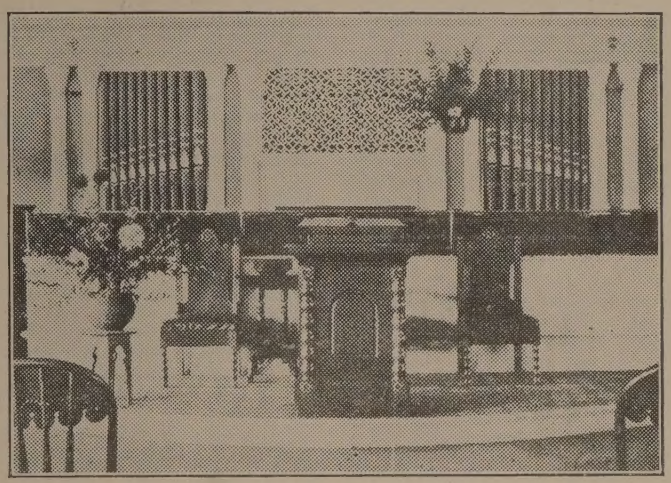

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTALLS PIPE ORGAN

Alameda Sunday School, of which R. Talmadge Rice is superintendent, has the distinction of being the only Sunday School in the Bay region that has a pipe organ, in fact there is only one other Sunday School pipe organ in the State. The recent installation of this organ was marked with a formal dedication September 5, when Rev. Harvey V. Miller, pastor of Alameda Church, spoke, consecrating the organ, and commended Mr. Rice for his diligence in securing the instrument and supervising its assemblage.

Originally the organ had been the gift of Mrs. Charles B. Alexander to Pilgrim Church, Oakland, in memory of Dr. F. B. Dwinnell, former instructor at the Pacific School of Religion. Mr. Rice negotiated for the exchange and carried the instrument piece by piece in a small automobile truck. It was necessary to rebuild much of it before it could be assembled and installed by the builders. Three hundred and fifty pipes compose the organ, the largest pipe is made of wood and is twelve inches square and ten feet long. The smallest is no larger than an ordinary lead pencil. An electric motor in the basement of the church supplies the power for its operation.

An organ recital given by Mr. B. H. Howard, organist of the local church, assisted by Miss N. Levin, violinist, was arranged to celebrate the formal opening of the organ.

The Conference was favored with a visit from Mr. Sidney A. Weston, Editor-Business Manager of the Congregational Publishing Society, and Mr. F. C. Finley, manager of the Pilgrim Press publications in Chicago. The purpose of their visit was to secure some more suitable method of distributing Pilgrim Press literature on the Pacific Coast. Accompanying trem was Mr. W. H. Webster, Manager of the Presbyterian Book Store in San Francisco. At a noon luncheon held Friday these matters were discussed and the recommendation made that we secure some space in the Presbyterian Headquarters, the matter to be decided by Mr. Weston and Mr. Braselman. Soon after the luncheon Mr. Webster was stricken with an acute heart attack, which resulted in his death by mid-afternoon. On receipt of this sad news the Conference immediately adjourned its business session.

A PASTOR'S IMPRESSION

The Diamond Anniversary of the Northern California Conference of Congregational Churches has passed into history, and not a little of its history will be associated in the minds of the delegates with the beauty of its environment. The magnificent view of the coast line broken here and there by the low-lying cypress trees crouched as if waiting the onslaught of the storm. The white sand dunes twisted and whipped into grotesque shapes by the fierce winds of the Pacific; and the most fascinating and mysterious of all is the sea. How glorious is the march of its billows, hurling themselves in mighty thunders on the beach like armies.

"Whose thirst for glory quells their love of life." In this beautiful setting the 75th anniversary was ushered in on the 8th if October and continued until the 14th. The impression borne upon one attending the Conference was the beautiful spirit of fellowship and christian love evinced and happily expressed among the delegates.

Here were strong, aggressive and forceful men and women about their Master's business. Congregationalism ought to be proud of this stalwart and forward looking group, worthy inheritors of the Pilgrim faith and ideals. Among the outstanding and inspiring things to be remembered were: the Conference Sermon by Dr. O. W. S. McCall which was a splendid plea for charity and kindly sympathy towards both the old and the new in religious thinking. The Mission Study Classes led by Dr. H. F. Swartz, "Of One Blood" and Rev. J. C. Holmes, "China's Challenge to Christianity," were conducted in a fine scholarly manner, the discussions were free, full and most helpful.

The addresses on "China" by Rev. O. S. Johnson and "Japan" by Rev. J. C. Holmes were educational and illuminating. The Sunday morning sermon by Rev. F. W. Morrison was timely, inspirational and full of the spirit of optimism; it was a fitting preparation for the Communion service in the afternoon led by Rev. Burton M. Palmer; and the "Fellowship" service around the "big fire," in charge of Rev. R. B. Dodge. These two services were the crowning and culmination of a perfect day.

The time would fail to tell of Dr. R. E. Brown on the "Pioneers," Dr. William Rader on "California Revisited," Rev. W. B. Thorp on "The Past Accomplishments of Congregationalism in Northern California" and Rev. Harley Gill on "The Present Condition and Prospects of Congregationalism in Northern California," Rev. H. S. McCready on "The Way to Wonder" and last but not least Dr. R. W. Gammon on "The Commission on Missions." These messages will long be remembered.

One must not forget to mention the fine bunch of young people who asked the ministers to meet them on their own ground and answer the questions of their perplexed and confused religious ideals. This was a challenge to the pastors to make faith and truth intelligible and satisfying to meet the demands of modern education.

The Boulevard Players under the direction of Wilbur S. Tupper presented three one-act plays in which the young people made a deep impression upon the Conference. Very marked talents were revealed in the splendid character interpretations. The plays were of a high order and delightfully entertaining.

The Conference was favored in having Mrs. Arch Jack to lead the singing. Her splendid voice was heard in several charming solos very much to the pleasure and appreciation of the delegates.

The business of the Conference was conducted in a statesmanlike manner. The report of Dr. W. J. Minchin as State Superintendent was a dignified and logical survey of his work during the year. The business details of his work were well presented. The figures helped one to discern clearly the wor kof the Superintendent and the measure of success the churches have attained during the year. The report was encouraging and inspiring.

Congregationalism is evidently a living force in Northern California and throbbing in the hearts of a faithful and loyal people.

It is safe to say that its ardor and courageous facing of its problems will not be lessened but intensified by the way the Conference squarely met its responsibilities.

The faith of our Fathers is living still and is facing the new day with a new vigor and a tremendous enthusiasm.

Samuel C. Carson.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The vital statistics of the California Home Missionary Society have been so thoroughly worked out by Mr. Gill and were so ably presented by him last evening, that we can pass them by except for such consideration as may arise from the floor. Since much of the detail of the finances will come before the Conference in the Treasurer's Report, it is necessary to make only a few explanations of the Comparative Balance Sheet that is to be found on page three of the October number of The Pacific.

Following the instructions of the last Conference we secured the services of an accredited Auditor, who spent a good portion of the month of November in examining our accounts and improving our methods. At his request we used the month of December as an equalizing month to make the necessary journal entries for these readjustments, also to charge to profit and loss the accumulations of the year. In addition we changed our bookkeeping so as to complete all transactions of the month within the calendar period. For this reason we have made our reports for a nine-months' period, counting the fiscal year as the calendar year. If, in the judgment of this gathering, the fiscal year should be September 30th, for all three corporations, we can begin with the current month and have complete yearly transactions up to date of the next meeting.

At the request of the Executive Committee we have so classified our accounts that we now include under "Accounts payable" all annuities, trust funds, conditional gifts, special gifts, as for instance the special offerings for Director of Religious Education. With this result: We can see at a glance just what our free capital is and make comparisons as to progress and loss. On this basis we had in the Home Missionary Society a free capital of $35,211.02. To this we add the net gain of the past nine months, which is $4,153.77, to the free capital we had on the books, leaving us, on September 30th, a net free capital of $39,364.79. By the same method our Conference free capital is reduced from $12,092.27 to $11,832.54, as we had a net operating deficit of $259.73 for the nine-months' period. There is a technical Conference improvement due to several real estate changes; as in the sales of the Green Street holdings and the sale of the Olivet parsonage as well as the recovery of insurance with the loss of the Redwod City Spanish building.

At present we have under "Accounts Payable" the accumulations for the employment of a Director of Religious Education. It amounts to $2,202.02. It is segregated as a direct obligation. As charges are made against this fund it is reduced, contributions are added. In this way we can never deceive ourselves as to the money we have for different departments.

Beginning with April 1st, we took over the publication of The Pacific, changing it to a low-priced popular news sheet and run in the direct interest of this Conference. To date we have just about broken even as to income and expenditure, but as we have to carry subscriptions for one and two years it will be necessary for us to more than double our present list of subscribers to make it self supporting.

There are a few items of outstanding interest that should be reported at this gathering. In closing out the Green Street interests we were obliged to send $8,000.00 to the Church Building Society to cover an old "Fire Agreement." At the time we put in a claim against that amount for such sums as we expended in the various readjustments, that with the profits on the lots amounts to $1,333.28. The Building Society asks that the chapter be closed. We sold the Olivet parsonage for $5500 gross, having paid $5000 for the same. It is a long-time payment, but with excellent security. Fire burned the Spanish Church at Redwood City. We secured $2,000.00 insurance from which we paid a Church Building loan against the church of $700.00 Recently we sold tht residence given us by Mrs. Hoskins. The gross amount received was $3000.00 cash. After sale expenses are deducted we are to pay to Mrs. Hoskins, during her life, 6 per cent on the capital amount, and if her sister survives her, pay the same amount during her life time.

It has been a year of marked improvement in church property. San Mateo and Saratoga have completed fine new structures; Campbell practically remodeled its entire plant; Rio Vista is building a new parish house and remodeling church and parsonage; Hayfork dedicated a new edifice; Sonoma has added a new Social Hall; Broadmoor has built two temporary buildings; Grass Valley is in the midst of very extensive improvements; both Grace and Olivet, Oakland, have thoroughly overhauled their properties, and Richmond, San Francisco, has improved its building. Berkeley, First, and Oakland, First, are both ready to break ground for magnificent buildings. Antioch is spending several thousand on repairs. Others are making preparations for similar improvements as above referred to. Verily, we are putting our houses in order, we trust for a great forward movement.

With reference to the work of promoting benevolence giving, there are several facts that need to be weighed very carefully if we are to maintain our work at a high standard in both Conference and Home Missionary Society. The Conference deals with the entire body of our churches, while the Home Missionary Society deals only with those who receive aid from the benevolences. The success of the Conference depends upon our maintaining at all times a splendid morale as to fellowship and service.

By Conference action we were voted 31.5 for the apportionment receipts. On the other hand, the Foreign Boards, American Board and Woman's Board, were voted 30.5, but actually received 36.7. This is due to the appeals for special contributions which tend to throw the entire apportionment out of gear.

In addition to apportionment causes, there has sprung up a number of other causes, purely Congregational, included in Year Book reporting as Other Items. The present ratio is somewhat alarming, as indicated in our last Year Book. We gave in 1923 to Apportionment causes $62,755 and for **Extra** Apportionment causes $42,808, a ration of 62 to 42.

Our Apportionment is $108.000. Our actual giving in grand total was $105,563 for reported giving, yet we did not reach over 60 per cent of our Apportionment. Not a few of our lay men and ministers have grave fear that the special appeals will soon outrun the normal work of the church and decrease its real efficiency.

In addition to the regular Apportionment and the **extra** Apportionment items comes the modern movement toward interdenominational affairs that look to us for a share of their support. The Anti-Saloon League with its special appeal; the State Federation of Churches, asking for 6 cents per church member, or $1032 annually; the State Council of Religious Education asking for 10 cents per enrolled member in the Sunday schools, or $1315 annually; the recent request of the National Council for an added 2 cents per member, or an increase of $354 annually. In round numbers we are being asked for an additional $2700 or $500 more than we gave to the Education Society last year.

This raises the question as to our representation in these movements and the part we should play in promoting them. In addition to these organizations there is a City Federation in San Francisco with its claim for $1500 from San Francisco churches, and a similar one proposed for Oakland with as great a financial demand. This Conference has no jurisdiction over these City Federations. They are referred to as a part of the financial requirements that concern us in this new day.

The time has come when we should make utterance as to our policy or contemplated policy on all these questions that affect our denomination as a whole. The burden is no heavier for us than for other communions. The chances are they are not as heavy. We ought to sit in on all matters of common interest or we ought to sit out. If we are to sit in it is our duty to meet a proportionate share of the financial burdens, and it is better to do it some systematic way rather than to leave it to haphazard solicitation.

The last seven or eight months have been the most encouraging period of the past few years. There are projected plans and programs that are full of hope. The largest amount of interest centers around the coming of a Director of Religious Education. With it will come a great stride forward in the promotion of Week Day Religious Education, Daily Vacation Bible Schools, Young People's Conferences, improved standards for Church Schools as well as some impetus in the starting of Branch Sunday Schools which will mean new work.

As a department it will need a large budget, a strong committee that wil give much time to the outlining of such work, and a co-operation on the part of ministers and Sunday School Superintendents who will be patient for awhile as the department comes to find its real place in the fabric of our church life.

There are demands for new work in needed fields. We must have an added income if we are to do the work effectively, or we must retrench beyond our present rate of reducing missionary aid. Unquestionably the new work has an appeal that the maintainance of the older churches does not afford.

Your department of Ministerial Relief has served some sixteen beneficiaries during the past year, and has been fortunate in getting some of its frozen assets into good interest-bearing securities. We show a net increase in operation of $336.93, part of which is an emergency gift of the National Society.

Your Superintendent wishes to express his great appreciation of the present Board of Trustees. There has been unusual loyalty on the part of the Executive Committee, and they have given long hours and devoted service to the affairs of the Conference. Never in his experience as an executive has the office run more smoothly or efficiently. Our churches are nearly all supplied with ministers, and, as a whole, they respond most graciouslp to the requests of the Conference office.

The outlook was never better. There are great things to be wrought and large tasks to underwrite. Another such year as the last will place us far ahead in the estimate with which we are held by the brethren of other denominations who watch us and feel the push of every high endeavor.

Yours respectfully,

WM. J. MINCHIN.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The annual statistics compiled by your Registrar show that we added one church to our rolls, dropped two, and suspended twenty-five which means a total loss of twenty six churches. Despite the fact that we added 1396 members we show a loss of membership of 716. Our churches are still carrying an unusually heavy absent membership, amounting to 2830 or about 16 per cent of the total. It may be several years before we show marked gain, if the pruning of rolls continues as it has the past two years. Our Sunday school membership is 13,147 as compared with a church membership of 17,162. This is a loss of 776 over the year before, though experience teaches us that Sunday school reporting is the most uncertain of any of the annual returns.

The average salary of our ministers is $1874 as against a national average of $1854. Sixty-eight churches report Young People's Societies with a membership of 2329. This means that over 60 per cent of our churches have organized work for young people.

We have 68 ministers with charge and 78 without charge, a total of 142. During the year we suffered the loss of one of our members, namely Dr. Henry M. Tenney, for a long time connected with the work of the American Board.

Our total giving as reported in the Year Book for 1923 amounted to $105,563 as compared with a grand total of $84.526 in 1922, an increase of $21,037. For specifically apportionment causes we received $62,775 as against $49,936, or a net gain of $12,-819. Our Home Expenses likewise increased$24,983. Loss of membership has not meant inpaired efficiency in the total summaries.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE

To the Trustees is committed the general oversight of our united endeavor as a Conference and Home Missionary Society. The Trustees have no function to perform independently of the Superintendent. They advise with him in regard to the disposition of Home Missionary aid, and the development of new churches, the investment of endowment funds, the control of Conference property, the relations with National Societies and various interdenominational organizations. The Superintendent's and Treasurer's reports cover the main items of business with which the Trustees have been concerned. Hence there is no demand for a detailed report here.

The Trustees have had three meetings during the year with attendance of 11, 12, 14 members out of a possible 21. The Executive Committee of the Board has met 8 times with an average attendance of 9 out of a possible 11. Eight members of the Executive Committee are laymen and three are ministers. Ministers, of course, have nothing to do on Mondays but attend meetings. But these laymen who have many things to do have considered it worth while to come into San Francisco and give the greater part of a day each month to the affairs of the Conference. For the regularity with which they have attended to this duty they deserve our gratitude and commendation.

To preside over the deliberations of the Board has been to me a joy. I have never been a member of a Board on which I had to do so little thinking. There has been no dominating mind among us. Decisions have been arrived at which represent the thought not of one but a number of independent minds. The Chairman's business has been not to determine policies but to put the question to vote.

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San Joaquin Association, Rev. S. C. Carson
Santa Clara Association, Rev. F. W. Morrison.
Sonoma Association, Mrs. C. I. Hooper.
Upper Bay Association, Rev. Jas. Muir.

CHURCH NEWS

San Jose, First—With nine missionaries from China present at the first session the second annual School of Missions at the First Congregational Church in San Jose opened on Sunday, October 19th. Rev. Fred W. Morrison, pastor of the church, acting as Dean of the school, called first to the platform five members of his church who had been missionaries in China. Thty were Dr. and Mrs. E. R. Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Bostwick and Mrs. Marian Osgood Dowie. Mr. and Mrs. Obed S. Johnson were then called forward. The happy surprise of the evening was the presence of Mrs. Lydia Lord Davis, who had returned from China just a day before. She with her son who has been teaching in China made the nine. Both Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Davis spoke. After a motion picture of China and a supper the school divided into six classes, providing for all ages. The first session was pronounced a success and the promise is great for a successful school.

Mr. Morrison announced that the day had been the "best yet" during his pastorate. The attendance at both the church school and the communion service being the largest in the past three years.

Oakland, Fruitvale—Recently the last payment on the church debt was made possible by a gift of twelve hundred dollars by Mrs. Henry Wetherbee. On September 28th, the burning of the mortgage formed part of the Rally Day services. Mrs. Wetherbee, the only Trustee now on the Board who was on the Board when the churcr was built, burned the mortgage, Mr. Kibbe, the President of the Board made some appropriate remarks, and the pastor, Rev. Charles F. Clarke, preached a sermon from the text, "I will build my church." The church was dedicated with a debt of over $10,000.00. About $7,500.00 has been paid during the present pastorate, leaving the church, social building and parsonage free from debt and there are no outstanding bills. All departments are beginning the fall work under encouraging conditions and now that the problem of debt is ended all look forward to aggresive work.

Porterville—The Church Rally Sunday, October 26th, saw the largest congregations for many years. The goal set for the morning service was four hundred. While this was not reached, it is estimated that including those that were turned away from the evening service, eight hundred were present at the two services. For a number of Sunday evenings the church has been unable to hold those seeking admittance.

During the summer this church united with the Methodist Church in the Sunday morning services. These were very popular. The services were held alternately in the two churches, and on each occasion a full house greeted the speaker, notwithstanding the heat of the San Joaquin valley. The Congregational minister preached during July and the Methodist minister during August.

All the churches of the city united in Sunday evening services during July and August. These were held on the tennis court of the Congregational church.

The opening evening service of the autumn—that on the first Sunday of September—was held on the tennis court of the church and between five and six hundred people were present. A motion picture was shown which served as the basis of a short, inspiring talk by the pastor, and there was special music. This enthusiastic gathering gave a good start for the fall work.

Berkeley, North—In the absence of Rev. Wm. Rader, acting pastor, Rev. Geo. W. Hinman was asked to supply the pulpit October 26. Dr. Hinman has just returned to California after six weeks spent in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, teaching mission classes. His sermon was on "An Adventure in Brotherhood" and served to introduce a mission study class which is to be conducted at a later date.

Antioch—Reconstruction of the old church building has been begun. The improvements which are estimated to cost about $2800 will include provision for social rooms, improvement of kitchen and work rooms.

Oleander—Rev. Samuel C. Carson reports that Rally Day was observed October 18 with an interesting program and an attendance of 53. Due to an epidemic of smallpox throughout the vicinity of Fresno, attendance has been reduced perceptibly.

San Leandro, Broadmoor—The hearts of the Sunday School children were made happy recently by the gift of an organ to be used in the new addition which is now being used for Sunday School classes. Misses Ada and Susan Skillicorn of First Church, San Francisco, hearing that Broadmoor was anxious to procure an organ, kindly offered to donate their own organ.

Berkeley, Bethany—It is interesting to watch the development of Bethany Church program as it is being promoted by some of the Pacific School of Religion students. September first found a scant dozen of faithful members in attendance when the recommendation was made that two students be asked to put on a program of church activities, including regular morning services. Within the last two months definite steps have been taken to put this little community to the front as a center of Christian and neighborhood activity.

The Sunday School has been reorganized and has leaped in attendance from twenty-four to fifty and then to seventy. "One hundred by Thanksgiving," which is the goal they have set, seems in a fair way to be realized.

William I. Newman and James H. Price, who are the associated Student Pastors, are in charge of the work and they are pushing every line of activity and are receiving practical help from other students in this direction.

Work among boys has been especially emphasized. There were only three boys registered the first Sunday but there is now a club of fifteen Junior High School boys, a club of sixth grade boys called the Pilgrim Pioneers, and a large group of fourth and fifth grade boys who form the Pilgrim Boy's Chorus. In addition to this, a group of ten of the older boys met to form a Boy's Band to assist in the church work.

About thirty girls have registered in the Girl's Club which holds regular meetings and are making many plans to carry the life of the church out into the heart of the community.

In response to a popular demand a Bethany Mothers' Club is being organized which will have charge of such events as church suppers, etc.

The morning service has gained in interest. A choir of ten is leading the singing and the congregation is averaging about thirty each week.

While the students usually handle the services themselves, they have been assisted in this by Prof. George T. Tolson and Prof. John Wright Buckham.

Problem of housing the work is a difficult one, but this has been answered in some degree by the neighbors opening their houses to the uses of Sunday School departments. An excellent kindergarten department has been formed in this manner.

PERSONALS

Rev. J. B. Silcox, who has been acting pastor of Mayflower Church, Pacific Grove, during the past six months has completed his work there and left the church with the newly chosen pastor, Rev. J. B. Currie, formerly of Tolona, Ill. Dr. Silcox is leaving for a few months' visit with his children and brother in Toronto and Montreal, Canada.

Rev. W. S. Oswald McCall, pastor of First, Berkeley, has just returned from a three months' visit in England, during which time he preached from the pulpit of City Temple, London. He reached California in time to preach the Conference sermon at the Annual Meeting of the Conference held at Asilomar, October 8 to 14. Dr. McCall has recently published a work entitled "Cardinals of Faith," which is the outgrowth of a series of addresses given by him at the Annual Meeting of the Conference in 1922.

CALLS

Cleaves, C. H., from Pocatello, Idaho, to Reno, Nevada. At work.

Dryer, I. Morse, to Ripon, California. At work.

FATHER AND SON SUNDAY

The growth of the Father and Son idea has been fostered by those who realize that it is a movement to help bridge an ever-widening chasm between father and son. The first national observance of National Father and Son Week was held in 1918, and the movement received a great impetus by this national observance and increased interest has been manifested, until now it has become world-wide in its influence and service.

Father and Son Sunday has been scheduled for November 16 and many churches are planning to observe a special service either at Sunday School or at the regular service, with special sermons to fathers and sons, which will emphasize the place of the church in the home life of the fathers and sons.

On this day fathers will have brought to their attention anew the tremendous responsibilities, as well as the deep satisfaction of modern fatherhood and who can say how many resolutions will be made by busy, driven fathers to do better by the boy this next year? Or who can estimate the practical value and significance of the determination of thousands upon thousands of boys to play the game at home better during the coming months because of the program that is promoted during Father and Son Week.

SONOMA ASSOCIATION MEETS

Programs have just been released giving the order of the Sonoma County Association which will meet at the Cotati Congregational Church Thursday, November 6. There are to be two sessions, the morning service opening at 10:20 with devotionals led by Rev. B. Dent Naylor of Sebastopol. After the business session and musical program Superintendent W. J. Minchin will give an address on the "Religious Outlook at Home."

The delegates will be the guests of the ladies of the Cotati Church. Rev. E. D. Weage, pastor at Guerneville, will conduct the devotional service in the afternoon session, opening at 1:30. "Religious Outlook in Europe" will be the theme of Rev. Henry Stauffer's address. Mr. Stauffer, pastor at Petaluma, has just returned from an extended trip to Europe which he spent studying the foreign religious trend. Miss C. Denman from Petaluma will speak on the "Religious Outlook in the World."

BOOK ENDS

"Religion in Russia Under the Soviets," by Bishop Richard J. Cooke; Pages, 305; price $2.00 net. The Abingdon Press.

"The Methodist Book Concern," a Romance of History by H. C. Jennings. Pages 287, price $1.00 net. The Methodist Book Concern.

"The Human Side of Hawaii," by Rev. Albert W. Palmer. Pages, 144; price $2.00. The Pilgrim Press.

"The Coming Kingdom," Studies in Christian Hope by Harris Franklin Rall. Pages, 119; price $.75 or $.82 by mail. The Methodist Book Concern.

"Blue Tiger," by Harry R. Caldwell. Pages, 261; price $2.00 net. The Abingdon Press.

"Stewardship for All of Life," by Luther E. Lovejoy. 144 pages; price, $.75; postage extra. Methodist Book Concern.

"The Curriculum of Religious Education," by George Herbert Betts, 528 pages; price, $3.00; postage extra. The Abingdon Press.

"Bible Study through Educational Dramatics," by Helen L. Willcox, is an exceedingly thoughtful and illuminating study of the whole subject of dramatics as applied to Sunday School work. It opens up a fascinating field of experiment for the resourceful Sunday School teacher. The Methodist Church may well be proud that its publishing house is bringing out books like this. The price is only one dollar.

We acknowledge receipt of "Home Lessons in Religion, a Manual for Mothers, Vol. 3, The Six- and Seven-Year Old," by Samuel and Mary Stagg (The Abingdon Press, $1). This is one of a series of books of detailed directions for religious instruction in the home. It can only be used in connection with at least four other books to which constant reference is made.

WILLARD B. THORP.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

The gross debt of the United States August 31st, 1919, was $26,596,701,648. June 30th, 1924, it was $21,250,812,980, a reduction of over five and a quarter billions of dollars.

The Treasury Department states that under its program, with consistent economies and no unforeseen hazards, the entire public debt should be cancelled in a period of 25 yars.

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It has been the purpose of the Trustees to advise the Superintendent and be of what assistance we could. But we look to him for leadership and have no purpose to relieve him of that responsibility. To him with the advice of the Trustees and the backing of the whole Conference should be committed the leadership of our small company which in the early years shall become a mighty host.

THOS. J. GIFFEN,
President Boord of Trustees.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PROPORTIONATE BENEVOLENCES

The Committee had a prolonged session September 2. We invited to sit with us the representatives of the Boards and Societies who are located in this State.

The Committee recommends as follows:

1. That we again adopt the National Council suggestion of $108,000.00 as the apportionment to be assigned to the churches for 1925.

2. We recommend that the percentage for the Conference be made nine percent, this to include one percent for the wrok of the Woman's Missionary Society. We further recommend that after the payment of this nine percent the remainder be accounted as 100 percent for the purpose of distribution as the benevolence apportionment and this his one hundred percent be distributed as follows:

	Percent
American Board	20
Woman's Board	13
Cong'l Education Society	6
Church Building Society	5½
Calif. Home Missionary	34½
American Missionary	13
Sunday School Extension	2
Ministers' Relief	2
Foundation for Education	3
Annuity Fund	1
Total Benevolence	100
Conference and Woman's Missionary Society	9
Total (equals $108,000)	109

3. We recommend that the contributions for the Education Foundation be designated for the Pacific School of Religion.

Respectfully,
H. F. SWARTZ,
Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted at Asilomar

Sympathy to Dr. Larkin

(1) RESOLVED, That we, members of the Northern California Congregational Conference, enter with profound sympathy and affection into the experience of our friend Dr. Ralph B. Larkin: we sorrow with him in the sense of loss in the passing of his father; we rejoice with him in the new relationship with the heavenly dwelling-places; and we pray that for him and for his mother there may be a new sense of the presence and the comfort of the Heavenly Father.

Appreciating the Y. W. C. A.

(2) RESOLVED, That the delegtes of the Sixty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Northern Californi aCongregational Conference hereby express their hearty thanks for the hospitality, courteous treatment, and efficient service of the management of the Y. W. C. A. at Asilomar.

Science in Public Schools

(3) RESOLVED, That the Northern California Congregational Conference expresses its confidence in the State Board of Education in the matter of the selection of scientific text-books for use in the public schools.

We oppose the effort of any group or individual to set up a censorship which will interfere with the free and untrammeled pursuit of truth by scientific students, and the teaching of accredited results to our children.

We welcome every scientific discovery as revealing the hand of God in the process of creation, and we rejoice in the enrichment of religious faith occasioned thereby.

National Defense

(4) WHEREAS, the recent Defense Test Day has created strong differences of opinion upon the subject of the National Defense,

And whereas we deplore any measures which stimulate the war spirit or tend to place undue reliance upon force of arms with the consequent inevitable danger of neglect of the moral forces which make for peace;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we recognize the duty of the War Department to make plans for the mobilization of men and materials to be used in the National Defense. And be it further resolved that we deplore any public display of such plans, or the simulation of a state of war tending to encourage the militaristic spirit wherever it exists in the nation and elsewhere.

League of Nations

(5) WHEREAS recent developments in the League of Nations have given great promise of progress toward disarmament and world peace by the substitution of law for war,

BE IT RESOLVED: That we urge upon our National Government that steps be taken for an early entrance into full membership of the World Court, and ultimately in the League of Nations on some basis that may seem best to all concerned.

Initiative No. 7

(6) RESOLVED: That we express our strong disapproval of "The Boxing and Wrestling Contests Initiative" appearing as No. 7 on the ballot, and urge the members of our churches to vote against it.

Opium Traffic

(7) WHEREAS the opium traffic has become a serious menace to the nation, and whereas a commission of the League of Nations has undertaken to recommend legislation for the proper control of the traffic

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we express our hearty support of such action as will lead to effective legislation in relation to this great curse.

Religious Education

(8) WHEREAS, There are many millions of American children who are receiving little or no systematic moral or religious training and are growing toward a citizenship of spiritual illiteracy; and,

WHEREAS We cannot hope to establish a stable civilization without a morally and spiritually developed citizenship; and,

WHEREAS. The church schools have not and the public schools cannot adequately care for this all-important part of the education of our children;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we heartily endorse the movement to secure legislation in our State favorable to the establishment of week-day religious education and pledge our full and active support thereto.

Greetings to Rev. O. W. Lucas

(9) RESOLVED, That this Conference extends its hearty good wishes and sympathy with our brother, Rev. O. W. Lucas, in his illness and assures him of the earnest prayers of all his brethren that God may restore him to health, and that during the tedious days of weakness he may be sustained by the mighty power of Him who has us all in His own safe keeping.

Pomona College

(10) RESOLVED, That the Northern California Congregational Conference renews the expression of its warm appreciation of and interest in the history and work of Pomona College. It rejoices in the steady material progress of the institution, in its scholastic standing and in the quality of character there emphasized and developed. It conceives of this Christian college and its growth as a concern of primary importance to the whole state; and particularly at this time when the College, under severe stress by virtue of its success, is seeking to establish itself by large additions to its resources, the Conference commends this cause to all who are concerned in great ways for the progress of the Kingdom of God.

The Pacific

(11) RESOLVED: That we heartily commend the present form editorial policy and general make-up of "The Pacific" and further that we recommend it most heartily to the membership of our Churches for their continued interest and support.

Standards For Naturalization

(12) WHEREAS, it is contrary to the fundamental principles of American Government to create class distinctions and dangerous to the social and political welfare of our nation to deprive any group of legal residents in this country of the rights of citizenship,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That recognizing the high and significant responsibilities of citizenship, we recommend to our representatives and senators in Congress that standards for naturalization be made so strict as to insure that those who meet them will be certainly qualified for citizenship, and further, that having established such standards, no discrimination be made on account of race, color, or place of birth.

Immigration Act

(13) WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has by the passage of the Johnson Immigration Act disturbed the friendly relations existing between the nation and Japan:

RESOLVED: That as representatives of the Congregational Churches of Northern California assembled in annual meeting, we desire to assure the people of Japan, and especially the Christian Churches of Japan that this action of the United States Congress misrepresents the attitude of the Christian people of California toward a nation with whom our country has been so long in friendly and mutually beneficent relationship:

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That we petition the President of the United States and our representatives in Congress to take steps to modify the Act so that there shall be no actual or implied affront to a justly high spirited and friendly people.

Greetings to Dr. Pond

(14) The Northern California Congregational Conference meeting October 8-14, 1924, in celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary remembers with deep appreciation the invaluable and formative service rendered during the three quarters of a century by Dr. William C. Pond. The members of the Conferenne express to Dr. Pond our deep affection for him as the life long friend and counsellor of us all in our christian service, and as the firm courageous leader who has gone before us in every high adventure; Therefore, We instruct the Moderator and Scribe to convey to Dr. Pond this expression of our affection and to assure him of our prayers for the continuance of the blessings of God.

Death of Mr. Webster

(15) WHEREAS, Our Conference has been called to witness the sudden claim by death of our friend and guest, Mr. W. H. Webster manager of the Presbyterian Book Store, San Francisco, immediately following a conference with members of our body which revealed him a clear, gracious gentleman, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That we extend to his widow this expression of our sincere regard for Mr. Webster known to us through years of fine Christian service, and of our deep sympathy in this sudden bereavement, commending her to the strong comfort of the Father And be it further

RESOLVED: That we send to Mr Frank Brasselman, Business Manager of the Presbyterian Board of Publications, Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, our expression of esteem for Mr. W. H. Webster and our deep sorrow in the loss which the Presbyterian Board and especially the San Francisco office have suffered in his sudden death.

RESOLVED: That copies of these resolutions be sent to Mrs. Webster to Mr. Breselman, to the Presbyterian Book Store, San Francisco, and to The Watchman, San Francisco.

IS PRIZE FIGHTING TO BE LEGALIZED?

F. M. Larkin, Ph. D.
Secretary State Church Federation

Unless the Christian people in California are aroused to a realization of all that is involved in initiative measure No. 7 (called "Boxing and Wrestling Contests") and go to the polls on November 4th and vote "NO" brutal prize fighting will be legalized in California.

This would be a disgrace to our state and an invitation to bums, thugs and bootleggers throughout the country to come to California. While it is recognized that many otherwise decent citizens will attend prize fights for the exhiliration of looking upon concrete brutality in the name of sport, nevertheless, such contests bring together the criminal class in large numbers.

The law now allows four rounds contests, which provide all the privileges of such sport consistent with the welfare of society. The proposed new law provides twelve rounds and a "prize and gate money" with a "decision" in case one of the contestants is "knocked out" or disabled within ten rounds—simply an inducement to promote extreme brutality which may end in murder.

Yet the brutalizing effect upon the thousands who will attend such contests and the use which will be made of the pictures by the motion picture business is the greater demoralizing effect upon society.

Even if a prize fight were a decent sport and not conducive to all things evil, the proposed initiative measure is a very bad one. The contest is placed entirely in the hands of a "commission" composed of "prize fight" promoters, whom the Governor cannot remove, and the law cannot be changed by the legislature. It also provides for the collecting and distributing of thousands of dollars and a "rake off" of five per cent of the gate receipts. If anything remains and here is a Joker sure—the excess would go to Old Soldiers' Homes.

Send for literature to California State Church Federation, 321 W. Third Street, Los Angeles, and vote "NO" on Measure No. 7 November 4th

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